



The Cloak



St. Martin's – A Christian Church for all people Sharing God's Love, Following Christ, Serving Others



A holy
winter's view
of St. Martin's

Contents:

2 ~ Father Lee's Message / Feb. Services
3 ~ What and When
4-5 ~ Parish Nurse
5 ~ Bible Study
6 ~ Finance Committee Report
6 ~ St. Martin's Project
7-8 ~ ECW Update
8 ~ Super Bowl Party

9 ~ John Wallace Scholarship
10 ~ Kindergartener's Music Lessons
10 ~ Baptism / Lamb's Basket
11 ~ Condolences / Wine Club
12 ~ Pancake Supper
12-13 ~ Feast of Lights
14 ~ Birthdays + Anniversaries
15 ~ St. Martin's Yellow Pages

Father Lee Hutchson

Fasting

Ash Wednesday (February 18th) marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday, along with Good Friday, are the two days on our church calendar where we are called to fast for a day, that is, from sunrise to sunset. On February 18, sunrise is 6:55 am, and sunset is 5:52 pm. Fasting was used as a spiritual discipline for several reasons. In Judges 20:26-28, it was used as a way to seek God's guidance. In the first book of Samuel 7:6, it was used as a sign of repentance, and in Luke 2:37, it was used as an act of worship. In these and other instances of scripture, fasting was used as a spiritual discipline to strengthen a person's faith in God. Jesus had the expectation that all of us would fast. Jesus said *when* you fast, not *if* you fast. "...When you fast do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others, but by your father in heaven..."

Fasting has been a part of my life since college, but it is not always easy and is often inconvenient. It becomes the focus of your day. However, it renews my faith in a deeply personal way. If you decide to fast, you are allowed to drink fluids. If your faith is not what you want it to be, plan on fasting on Ash Wednesday. If your faith is strong, plan on fasting on Ash Wednesday to build the self-discipline of your heart. Then celebrate with a great dinner, giving thanks to God for all the blessings that are a part of your life.



Fr. Lee



Services in February

Sunday, February 1 -	Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Sunday, February 8 -	Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Sunday, February 15 -	Last Sunday after the Epiphany
Wednesday, February 18 -	Ash Wednesday services at 7:30 am, 10 am, and 7 pm
Sunday, February 22 -	First Sunday of Lent

What and When

February

After Wednesday Service Social

First Wednesday of the month (February 4)
come and gather with us for a light brunch

Social Bridge

Thursday February 5, 12, 19, 26 at 10am

Wine Club (see page 11)

Saturday February 7 at 12p at Everleigh Vineyards

Super Bowl Party

Sunday February 8 at 6 pm (see page 8)

Vestry Meeting

Tuesday February 10 at 7pm

Men's Breakfast

Saturday February 14 at 9am @ Shorty's Diner
all men welcome to join us

ECW Meeting

Saturday February 14 at 10am (see page 8)

Pancake Supper

Tuesday February 17 at 5:30 pm (see page 12)

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday February 18 (see page 2)

WE (West End) Quilters

Tuesday February 19 at 10am

Cloak Deadline

Friday February 20

St. Martin's Project

Sat. February 21 at 9:30am - White Team (see pg 6)

ECW Lenten Retreat Deadline

Thursday February 26 (see page 8)

Upcoming

John C. Wallace Scholarship

Deadline to apply: March 5 by 5 pm (see page 9)

Regular Weekly or Monthly Events are usually not listed in the left column.

Regular Weekly Events

Event	Day	Time
Sunday Services	Sunday	8 am* & 10 am*
Boy Scouts	Monday	7 pm
MOW Meals on Wheels	Tuesday	10 am
Bible Study	Tuesday	10 am or
	Wednesday	7 pm
Holy Eucharist	Wednesday*	10 am
Yoga Stretch (\$3)	Tuesday	1 pm
Choir Practice	Thursday	7pm
Ethiopian Christians	Saturday	6 am
Compline Service		
-live on Facebook	daily*	8 pm

* all these are streamed live on FaceBook

Regular Monthly Events

Event	Day	Time
Vestry Meeting	2 nd Tuesday	7 pm
Midweek Service Social	1 st Wednesday	after 10 am service
ECW	2 nd Saturday	10 am
Men's Breakfast	2 nd Saturday	9 am
St. Martin's Project	3 rd Saturday	9:30 am



Important: Only church dates/events are listed in this calendar but our Lord's building is used by other groups. If you are scheduling an event for your group please consult with the large calendar in the copy room or the church office first.



Parish Nurse

by Betty Horne

Conjunctivitis

Conjunctivitis, or pink eye as it is commonly called, is an inflammation of the white part of the eye and inside the eyelid. It is the most common eye problem. Anyone can get pink eye from many different sources. One eye or both eyes can be affected. It often causes itching and pain. It can cause serious health problems for newborn babies.

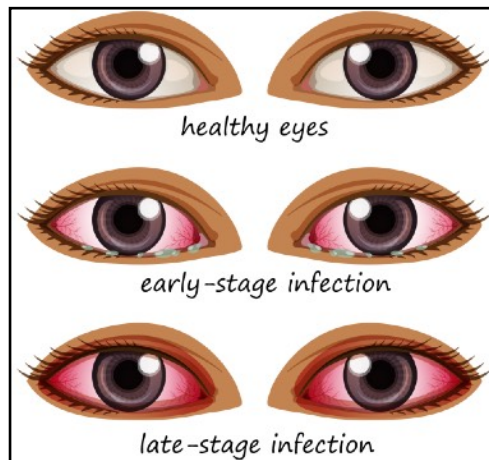
Causes include viral or bacterial infections, but can be caused by a foreign body in the eye, allergy to pollen, pet fur, contact lens wear, chemicals such as chlorine (swimming pool), and other industrial allergens or air pollution. Fungus, amoeba, and parasites can also cause conjunctivitis.

Symptoms:

- Pink or red eyes
- Swelling of the eyelids
- Itching or burning eyes
- Watery eyes
- Drainage which can be yellow, white, or green
- Crusting of the eyelids or lashes, especially on awakening
- A feeling that there is something in the eye causing the urge to rub

Complications require a visit to your healthcare provider and include:

- Sensitivity to bright lights
- Blurry vision
- Eye pain
- Intense eye redness
- Symptoms get worse
- You have a weakened immune system



Treatment depends on the cause of pink eye. Viral and bacterial pink eyes are very contagious and can spread easily from person to person by:

- Touching or shaking hands
- Contact with droplets after someone coughs or sneezes
- Touching contaminated objects or surfaces then touching your eyes.
- **Bacterial conjunctivitis** is usually treated with antibiotic eye drops or ointment.
- **Viral pink eyes** usually follow a respiratory illness, i.e. cold or flu.
- **Allergic conjunctivitis** may require eye drops and often allergy medicines such as antihistamines. Avoid contact with whatever triggers your allergies.

Symptoms can be relieved by:

- Cleansing the eyelids with a clean, wet cloth
- Applying cold or warm compresses several times a day
- Using artificial tears
- Stop using contact lenses until treatment is complete (discard worn soft lenses)
- Disinfect hard lenses before you reuse them

Anyone is at risk for pink eye. However, it is especially serious in newborns and needs prompt attention. Symptoms may include unusual fluid discharge from the eye, puffy or red eyelids, caused by an infection or a blocked tear duct.

You are more likely to get pink eyes if you:

- Encounter someone who has pink eye
- Had a recent respiratory infection
- Wear contact lenses
- Come in contact with something you are allergic to.

Prevention

If you are in contact with those who have pink eye, you should:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- Wash your hands after touching a person with pink eye or articles used by this person

- Wash your hands before touching your eyes
- Don't share personal items used by someone with pink eye, i.e., towels, pillows, makeup

If you have pink eye:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, especially after touching the eye or using eye drops
- Avoid touching your eyes
- Cleanse any discharge around the eyes 2-3 times a day with a clean, wet cloth or cotton ball (discard cotton ball after each use). Wash your hands after touching your eyes
- Don't share personal items with others
- Clean your glasses regularly
- Stop wearing contact lenses until treatment is complete. Discard soft used lenses
- Follow provider instructions regarding use/care of contact lenses
- Discard makeup, products, and accessories used while you had pink eye
- Discard contact lens solution, lenses, and cases used while you had pink eye
- Clean glasses and cases



The above may be helpful in keeping those eyes healthy!

Sources: CDC and NIH



Don't miss it!

Bible Study

Tuesdays at 10 am -or- Wednesdays at 7 pm

The Book of Luke

Note: If a Tuesday is cancelled for some reason, the Wednesday is cancelled too so both groups stay close in content.

Finance Committee Report - Garland Harwood

Financial Highlights 2025	YTD end of November	MTD December	YTD end of December
Income	\$217,599.05	\$39,683.22	\$257,282.27
Expenses	-\$237,762.04	-\$21,031.05	-\$258,793.09
Gain or Loss	-\$20,162.99	\$18,652.17	-\$1,510.82

What an incredible finish we had for an incredible year 2025! In December we had Pledged and Plate income of \$39,683 which exceeded our budget for the month by over \$20,000 and left us just slightly in the red for the year by (\$1,511).

Many thanks to our generous congregation that makes St. Martin's the wonderful Church that it is!

Spotlight on St. Martin's Project

We have a lot of different and wonderful ministries at St. Martin's, among them is The St. Martin's Project. It started in the mid-1990s, and by partnering with three other Episcopal churches in the Richmond area, we are able to ensure bag lunches are provided to several area shelter residents every Saturday. Church of the Epiphany, All Saints, and St. Matthias-Manakin are our partner churches. The shelters that we serve include a women & children's

shelter and a few transitional shelters for men trying to regain their independence through training, constructive work ethics, and job retention.



St. Martin's provides bag lunches on the third Saturday of each month. We have three teams (Red, White, and Blue) that rotate, so each team ends up covering four Saturdays a year. In January, it was the Red team's turn, and they made 165 sandwiches! Several of the women who attended the Ethiopian service stayed and helped, too.



Preparing the lunches is not a difficult task. Team members compile the contents and make sure that each lunch bag has all items in it. St. Martin's Project is a truly worthwhile outreach that ultimately provides over 8,000 lunches per year! If you are ever interested in helping, contact Martha Sneary or the office.



Our regular monthly meeting on **Saturday, January 10** had to be rearranged. Susan Teachey, who was to lecture us on **Scams and Frauds**, unfortunately, was in great pain from a previous injury. As she was scheduled for surgery a few days later we felt that postponing the lecture was necessary and a good idea. Susie had already prepared a hand-out for the lecture, and it was attached to the email sent to the ladies of the church explaining the change.

8 members attended and had a good time at the meeting anyway. This new trial recipe by Christa for the social time with snacks seemed to be a success and sharing it was requested.

Sausage & Spinach Egg Bites (Christa Burr)

I changed my recipe "Sausage & Spinach Pie" again because I find pie difficult to serve nicely. And ... I like my new silicone mini loaf pan* a lot. This is perfect for potlucks and buffet style meals.

Ingredients:

- 1 pound turkey breakfast sausage
- 1 cup herb-seasoned stuffing mix
- 10-ounce package frozen chopped spinach, thawed and well-drained
- 8 beaten eggs
- 3 cups milk (I use 2%)
- shredded sharp cheddar (or whatever you like) as needed
- 1 Pie Crust

(I use the one from ALDI which comes rolled in parchment paper and are found in the refrigerator section)

Steps:

- Turn on oven to 350"
- In a skillet cook sausage till brown. Mix with stuffing mix and spinach in a bowl. Set aside.
- Unroll and leave it on the parchment. If it is cold be careful that it doesn't break. Make cut lines to have pieces the size of the bottom of the mini loaf pan compartments. They can be slightly smaller because when you press them in you can press them to size slightly. I think I had 9 solid pieces and used the rest to cover 5 more bottoms. Pressing seams together. 2 compartments were empty but that was ok too. (You might experiment with that)
- Spoon shredded cheese into the compartments. To your liking. A tbsp into each probably. Totally covering the space.
- Spoon sausage/stuffing/spinach mix into it pressing a little down with back of the spoon. The mixture should fill 16 compartments (2 pans).
- Combine beaten eggs and milk. Pour over sausage mixture.
- Bake, uncovered, in the 350' oven for 30 minutes or till knife inserted comes out clean. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

Comments: Good as leftover. Can be microwaved.

Also, you can prepare the pans with everything except the eggs/milk in advance and refrigerate. When needed add egg/milk mixture and bake. Might take a little longer.

* The silicone pans: I do not have to grease or prep the pan. To take out what I baked I just push each from underneath and can easily lift it out. I fill it with soapy water in the sink to soak and just wipe it out later. So easy.



continued from previous page... ECW update

A short business meeting was held with good discussions. The meeting was finished with some Children's Bible Trivia, a game James Burr used many years ago when he was a Sunday school teacher for the high school class at their former church in Kentucky. It was voiced that we should end more meetings with a few bible trivia questions.

At the next meeting on **Saturday, February 14**, we will start at 10 am as usual with half an hour of friendship time with snacks, followed promptly by Susan Teachey's lecture about **Scams and Frauds**. The info from the last Cloak and a copy of the email attachment are pinned to the ECW board in the hallway for your information.

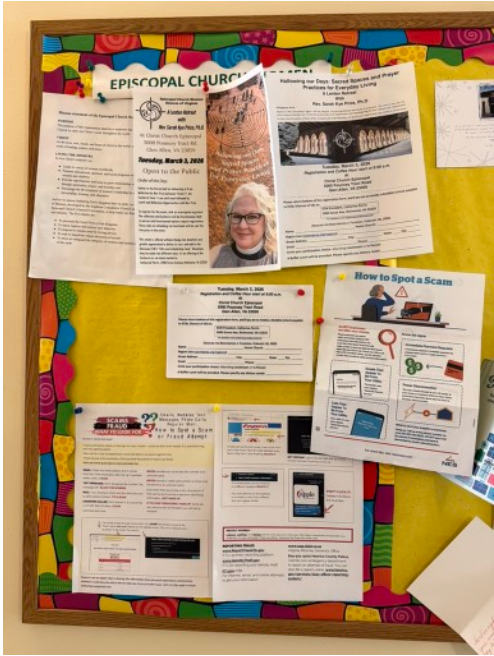
Also on that board is info about **A Lenten Retreat on Tuesday, March 3**, an event from the Diocesan ECW. Mark your calendar! You can attend Livestream or In Person. It is free, but registration is needed and the deadline is February 26.

At the **March 14** meeting we will be once again working on making Jill's Blankets for people who need cancer treatments. We thank Amy Bailey for donating the material which she bought when JoAnn's shops were closing permanently.

Last but not least, **SAVE THE DATE:** Tuesday, May 5, 2026
St. Martin's ECW group will be hosting the VA Diocesan ECW Spring Meeting. More details about that later.

We hope you will join us at some or all of these events. For questions feel free to call Christa at 804-787-0525 or email kygerman@hotmail.com.

All women of our congregation and their responsible daughters are welcome to attend. No sign-up necessary.



Don't miss the FUN!


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Super Bowl Party

Join us on Sunday, February 8, 2026
Beginning at 6:00 pm


BBQ supper & drinks will be provided.
Please bring appetizers, sides, desserts to share.

An overall fun and festive atmosphere.
Hope to see you there!!



SEATTLE
SEAHAWKS

VS



NEW ENGLAND
PATRIOTS

John C. Wallace Scholarship's 20th Anniversary!

- Ashley Borders



This year marks the scholarship's **20th** year, and in its honor, I want to give an abbreviated version of the history I wrote for last February's Cloak. See that and how to apply below...

Background

The scholarship is named after my dad, John Campbell Wallace, a witty, intelligent, loving, and hard-working man, who, in my opinion, was the best dad ever. Born in Pulaski, VA, in 1943, Dad majored in electrical engineering at Virginia Tech and worked for an engineering firm in Roanoke before moving to Richmond with Johnson Controls. He ultimately founded his own automated controls company, Wallace-Day, Inc.

Mom (Carolyn Wallace) and Dad married in 1968, and I came along in 1971. Dad was a cradle Episcopalian, having grown up in Christ Episcopal Church in Pulaski. As a family, we found our way to St. Martin's in the early 1980s. This parish had a special place in both of my parents' hearts. Dad was a founding member of the Endowment Fund and served many terms on that committee. He also headed the Stewardship Committee for several years and was a very active member overall until his death in 2005.

When not working or at St. Martin's, Dad could be found snow skiing, golfing, traveling, reading, or learning. He had a fantastic sense of humor and loved a good joke, and he would have adored being a grandfather.

Mom and I started the scholarship in his memory because he was a big advocate in encouraging others to pursue their higher education. This felt like a fitting tribute. The scholarship was first run through a committee at St. Martin's, but in 2017, we created an endowed fund through the Community Foundation for a greater Richmond, which now manages it and selects the scholarship recipients.

The Scholarship Itself and How to Apply

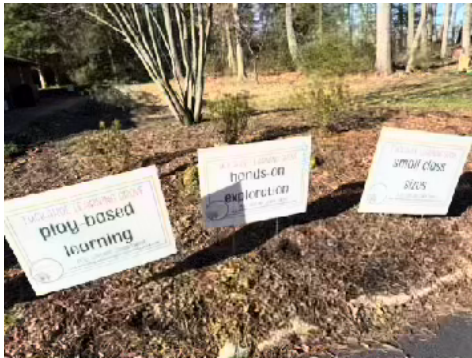
The 2026 John C. Wallace Scholarship application opened in mid-January. There are two scholarships available, each for \$1500. To be eligible, a student must be a member of St. Martin's who is a high school senior, a recent high school graduate, or an adult learner. The applicant must be planning to enroll in an accredited two- or four-year community college, college or university, or a technical or vocational school in the United States for the 2026-2027 academic year. The applicant does not need to know which school they will go to at this time.

Application information can be accessed on the Community Foundation's [website](#). Applicants will complete a universal application, which will also match them with other scholarships for which they may be eligible. Estimated time to complete the universal application is 20 minutes. All applications and supporting materials are submitted through the website, and they are due on or before **March 5, 2026, by 5:00 pm**.

I truly hope all of you who are eligible apply!



Kindergarteners Get Music Lessons



Several St Martin's members are volunteering at the **Tuckahoe Learning Grove**, which uses our facility.

Carolyn Mowery was seen Wed., February 14, teaching the students about the piano. Nancy Greenwood likes to do that too.



Upcoming Baptism

of
Declan James Savitz

Sunday, February 1
during the 10am service.



Lamb's Basket Update . . .

On January 20 we delivered **88 pounds** of food to the Lamb's Basket!

Thank you all for your efforts. Every item helps, and we are indeed making a difference.



Condolences!



Of your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of

Dr. E. Carl Freeman

Long-time Minister of Music at River Road Church
(Baptist)

Brilliant organist and conductor, mentor, and friend

Rest eternal grant him, O Lord.
And may Light Perpetual shine upon him.
May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed,
Rest in Peace. Amen

Powell Johann

to the family and friends of

Dorothy Bowen Farleigh

Mother to Judy, Susan, and Carol. Dorothy was
born on January 17, 1936 and passed away
January 15, 2026.

Her memorial service will be held at St.
Martin's on February 6 at 12:30pm.

Please keep her family and friends in your
prayers.

St. Martin's Wine Club - Krestin Gibson, Nancy Greenwood, and Jean Rollins

Everleigh Vineyards

Hope everyone has had a wonderful holiday and is ready to resume our Wine Club visits!

Our next "meeting" will be on **Saturday February 7, at 12 noon**, at Everleigh Vineyards in Mineral. This is in Louisa County, about an hour from St Martin's. The vineyard also includes a craft brewery and cidery. They have food on site, and no outside food is allowed in the tasting room.

Here is a link: [Everleigh Vineyards](#)

Please see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board, and indicate if you would like a ride or want to carpool. Please sign up by Jan 26.





Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 17
5:30 - 7 pm

Come enjoy the annual Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 17. This is a major fundraiser for the youth service trip in June.

Whether you call it Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday, Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day, please join for a feast of delicious pancakes and sausage and an evening of fun fellowship!



Feast of Lights & Burning of the Greens

- Saturday, January 3



continued from previous page... Feast of Lights



Scenes from the snow . . .





*		*	
02/01	Scott Alloway	03/01	John Atkins
02/02	Kitty Pendleton	03/02	James Barrett
02/06	Elaine Jacobson	03/07	Holden Andrews
02/09	Thomas Anthony	03/08	Ginny Munoz
02/09	Chris Baughan	03/08	Dariush Babollahzadeh
02/10	Waylon Thirion	03/12	Noah Romano
02/10	Annette S. Woolwine	03/12	Debbie Grumbine
02/13	Dennis Pinner	03/16	Taylor Adams
02/13	Wesley Fiasco	03/17	Bill White
02/16	Darrell Jenkins	03/21	Noah Clements
02/17	Mariella Ponce	03/22	Sharon Ragland
02/21	Susan Iervolino	03/22	Mary Goodman
02/23	Simon Rowley	03/23	Jim Greenwood
02/26	Stephanie Machalinski	03/23	Caroline Baughan
02/27	Brianna Bailey	03/23	Emmalynn Reid
*		03/23	Carolyn Mowery



*		*	
02/14/1987	Carl & Sandra McAllister		
*			
		*	
03/01/	Moboluwaji & Titilayo Akinfolajimi		
03/17/1974	Jean & Richard Rollins		
03/20/1982	Kim & Mike Shook		
03/21/	Greg & Vicky Echevarria		
*			

Winter art



Every Member and Friend of St. Martin's is important. If you have not given us your birth dates and wedding dates, please email them to registrar@saintmartinschurch.org. (We like to know the year too but only for demographic purposes. Birth years are sometimes published for children only.)

We would like to say a prayer for you too on your special day.

registrar@saintmartinschurch.org

Please send any changes to do with the directory like the portrait photos, addresses, emails, telephone/cell phone numbers, birthdays, and anniversaries to the above address as well.

Newcomers, please don't hesitate to let us know if you would like to get the weekly email and/or The Cloak.

St. Martin's Yellow Pages

This area is where you can post your service or product to let your fellow St. Martinites know how you can help them, and you can give those who post here your support.



OCEANFRONT BEACH HOUSE FOR RENT

Perfect for a couple or family of 4.

Located directly on the beach in Hatteras Village, NC.
Contact Bob or Max Barritt (h) 270-3862 or (c) 512-4586

For private Piano Lessons

contact

Carolyn Mowery

434-391-4938 (please leave message)

or

clmowery61@hotmail.com



Blessing Box

Stock the Little Free Pantry!

When you have to shop for your food anyway, why not also pick up a few non-perishable items for the "Little Free Pantry?"

No glass containers please.
Also, nothing which could spoil in the summer heat like mayonnaise, dressings, etc.

We are happy to report that the contents of the box is very well used. It is often empty.

Help to keep it filled!



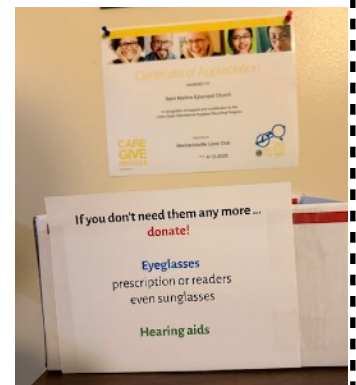
YOUR OLD EYE GLASSES & HEARING AIDS!

Please remember that those glasses you don't use any longer could mean a lot to somebody who can't see or read otherwise.

Same with hearing aids that are no longer needed. They can really help people who cannot otherwise get any.

The ECW will take care of them.

THANK YOU!



ST. MARTIN'S STAFF

Rector: The Rev. Lee A. Hutchison
Priest Associate: Rev. Dr. Sandra Levy-Mix
Priest Associate: Rev. Jerry Sneary
Deacon: Rev. Dawn McNamara
Monastic Associate: John Ogle
Organist & Choirmaster: Powell Johann

CHURCH OFFICE

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Website: <https://saintmartinschurch.org>

Office Hours

Tuesdays & Wednesdays 10 am-2 pm

It is best to call the office or Thomas Anthony
(804-944-5620) before you come.

Trustee Emeritus: Robert I. Kirby,
Trustees: Kerry Alloway, Garland Harwood
& Jim Greenwood

VESTRY

2026	2027	2028
Krestin Gibson	Rick Gibbs	Nancye Greenwood
Garland Harwood	Joe Lamb	Frederick Schlag
Bill White	Elaine Markey	Mike Shook

Senior Warden: Bill White
Junior Warden: Rick Gibbs

Treasurer: N'neka Logan (interim)
Assistant Treasurer: Mike Fiasco
Cloak Editor: Ashley Borders



St. Martin's Episcopal Church

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To submit articles or ideas for The Cloak, email:

cloak@saintmartinschurch.org